

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **March 29, 2004** the Examiner reviewed claims 1-24. Claims 1, 9, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al., (US Patent No. 5,590,197, hereinafter “Chen”) in view of Franklin et al (USPN 6,000,832, hereinafter “Franklin”). Claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Chen and further in view of Franklin.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to include the allowable limitations from claims 2, 10, and 18, respectively. Dependent claims 3, 8, 11, 16, 19, and 24 have been amended to correct antecedent basis.

Dependent claims 2, 10, and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 3-8, which depend upon claim 1, claims 11-16, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 19-24, which depend upon claim 17 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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